

CLAIMS

1. A device for facilitating the reading of a book by holding its pages in an open position, said device including an elongate member (100) for spanning the cover of an open book (B), and two end-pieces (101, 102) which include finger portions (30) directed inwardly towards each other at opposite ends of the elongate member, wherein each of said end-pieces (101, 102) is provided with spring means (203) for urging the respective finger portion towards the elongate member to grip the pages, and a support leg (40) projects from the elongate member (100) to angularly support the book (B) while resting on its lower edge,

characterised in that

the elongate member includes a platform (14) which projects at opposite sides of said elongate member (100) to support the cover of the book, and said support leg (40) is of elongate shape with one end joined to the elongate member by pivotal connection means (56-59) such that the support leg is angularly adjustable relative to the platform (14).

2. A device according to Claim 1 in which the support leg (40) is slidably engaged with the elongate member (100).

3. A device according to Claim 2 in which the elongate member (100) includes inner and outer telescopically-engaged elements (107, 108) which carry the respective end pieces (101, 102) whereby the distance between the end-pieces can be adjusted, and the support leg (40) is slidably engaged with the outer telescopically-engaged element (108).

4. A device according to Claim 1 in which said pivotal connection means (56-59) allows the support leg (40) to be angularly adjusted about a rotational axis (*D*) which is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of the elongate member (100).

5. A device according to Claim 4 in which said pivotal connection means includes a hinge projection (56) on the support leg (40) which is pivotally connected to a hinge component (57) by means of a hinge pin (58, 59).

6. A device according to Claim 1 in which the support leg (40) is rotatably connected to the elongate member (100) for rotation about an axis (*E*) which is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the elongate member (100).

7. A device according to Claim 6 in which the support leg (40) is rotatably connected to a slider (63) which is slidably engaged with the elongate member (100).

8. A device according to Claim 1 in which the support leg (40) comprises a plurality of telescopically-engaged sections (50, 51) whereby the support leg (40) may be telescopically extended.

9. A device according to Claim 1 including a mounting sleeve (80) which is arranged to receive the support leg (40) as a push fit and which is provided with means (81, 82) for releasably attaching the sleeve to a surface.

10. A device according to Claim 1 in which the support leg has an opposite end (51) from the elongate element (100) which is formed of or coated with a friction material.

11. A device according to Claim 1 in which the end pieces (101, 102) are formed as separate components which have pivotal connections (25, 201) with the elongate member (100).